III. *An Account of a Dropſy in the left Ovary of a Woman, aged* 58. *Cured by a large Inciſion made in the Side of the* Abdomen, *by Dr.* Robert Houſtoun.

AUGUST 1701. I was in the Country, with a Patient, the Lady *Anne Houſtoun*, Wife to Sir *John Houſtoun*, Baronet; in the Shire of *Renfrew*, ten Miles from *Glaſgow*, *North Britain*. This charitable Lady preſs'd me with great Earneſtneſs to viſit a Tenant's Wife, who lay bedridden, of an uncommon Diſeaſe, which no Phyſician, or Surgeon, who had ſeen her, could give any Name to, or account for. She inform'd me, the ableſt of that Country had forſaken her, and declared her incurable, ſo that I could loſe no Reputation by the Reſult of my Endeavours.

In order to oblige this worthy Lady, and in Compaſſion to the Diſtreſs of a poor Woman in ſo deplorable Condition, deſerted and given over on all ſides, I went, determined to do every thing in my Power for her Relief. She was in the 58th Year of her Age, her Name was *Margaret Millar*.

She inform'd me that her Midwife, in her laſt lying-in, at 45 Years old, having violently pull'd away the Burthen, ſhe was ſo very ſenſibly affected by a Pain, which then ſeiz'd her in the left Side, between the *Umbilicus* and Groin, that ſhe ſcarce ever had been free from it after, but that it had troubled her more, or leſs, during 13 Years together; that for two Years paſt ſhe had been extremely uneaſy, her Belly grew very large,

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large, and a Difficulty of breathing increaſed continually upon her; inſomuch that for the laſt ſix Months, ſhe had ſcarce breath'd at all but with the utmoſt Difficulty. That in all that Space of Time, having quite loſt her Appetite, ſhe had ſcarce eat ſo much as would nouriſh a ſucking Child; and that for three Months together ſhe had now been forc'd to lie conſtantly on her Back, not daring to move at all, to one ſide or other.

This Tumour was grown to ſo monſtrous a Bulk, that it engroſs'd the whole left Side, from the *Umbilicus* to the *Pubes*, and ſtretch'd the Abdominal Muſcles, to ſo unequal a Degree, that I don't remember ever to have ſeen the like in the whole Courſe of my Practice. It drew towards a Point. Her being ſo long confined to lie continually on her Back, having grievouſly excoriated her, added much to her Sufferings, which, with want of Reſt and Appetite, had waſted her to Skin and Bone, as the poor Woman herſelf expreſſed it. Indeed ſhe needed not to have told me ſo, my Eyes were too faithful Witneſſes of her low and wretched Condition.

Scarce able to ſpeak out, ſhe told me, that having heard much of my Succeſs, ſhe had ſtrong Hopes of Relief, provided I would try at leaſt, and do ſomething in Pity to her Affliction.

I anſwer'd her that I was willing, but afraid, in her low State, ſhe would want Strength to undergo a large Inciſion; that in order effectually to relieve her, I muſt be oblig'd to lay open a great Part of her Belly, and remove the Cauſe of all that Swelling: ſhe ſeem'd not frightened, but heard me without Diſorder, and, as if inſpir'd with ſudden Courage, preſs'd, and urg'd me to the Operation.

I drew (I muſt confeſs) almoſt all my Confidence from her unexpected Reſolution, ſo that without loſs of Time, I prepared what the Place would allow, and

with an Impoſthume Lancet, laid open about an Inch, but finding nothing iſſue, I enlarged it two Inches, and even then nothing came forth but a little thin yellowiſh *Serum*, ſo I ventured to lay it open about two Inches more: I was not a little ſtartled, after ſo large an Aperture, to find only a glutinous Subſtance bung up this Orifice. All my Difficulty was to remove it; I try'd my Probe, I endeavour'd with my Fingers, but all was in vain; it was ſo ſlippery that it eluded every Touch, and the ſtrongeſt hold I could take.

I wanted, in this place, almoſt every thing neceſſary, but bethought myſelf of a very odd Inſtrument, yet as good as the beſt in its Conſequence, becauſe it anſwer'd the End propos'd. I took a ſtrong Firr-Splinter, ſuch as the Poor in that Country ordinarily uſe to burn inſtead of Candles; I wrapt about the End of this Splinter ſome looſe Lint, and thruſt it into the Wound, and by turning and winding it, I drew out above two Yards in Length of a Subſtance thicker than any Gellie, or rather like Glue that's freſh made and hung out to dry; the Breadth of it was above ten Inches; this was followed by nine full Quarts of ſuch Matter, as I have met with in Steatomatous and Atheromatous Tumours, with ſeveral *Hydatides*, of various Sizes, containing a yellowiſh *Serum*, the leaſt of 'em bigger than an Orange, with ſeveral large Pieces of Membranes, which ſeem'd to be Parts of the diſtended Ovary. Then I ſqueez'd out all I could, and ſtitch'd up the Wound in three Places, almoſt equi-diſtant: I was oblig'd to make uſe of *Lucatellus*'s Balſam, which was made by her Lady for the Uſe of the Poor; with this Balſam I covered a Pledget, the whole Length of the Wound, and over that laid ſeveral Compreſſes, dipp'd in warm *French* Brandy, and becauſe I judg'd that the Parts might have loſt their Spring, by ſo vaſt and ſo long a Diſtention

Diſtention, I dipt in the ſame Brandy a large Napkin four times folded, and applied it over all the Dreſſings, and with a couple of ſtrong Towels, which were alſo dipt, I ſwathed her round the Body, and then gave her about four Ounces of the following Mixture, which I had from her Lady.

℞ *Aq. Menthæ* ℔ ſs. *Aq. Cinnamomi fort.* ℔ iſs. *Syr. Diacodii* ʒ vi. *M.*

The Cinnamon-Water was drawn off from Canary and the beſt Cinnamon; indeed it was the fineſt and moſt fragrant Cinnamon-Water I ever taſted; of this Mixture I ordered her 2 or 3 Spoonfuls 4 times a Day.

Next Morning I found her in a breathing Sweat, and ſhe informed me, with great Tokens of Joy, that ſhe had not ſlept ſo much, nor found herſelf ſo well refreſh'd, at any Time for three Months paſt. I carefully attended her once every Day, and as conſtantly dreſſed her Wound in the ſame Manner as above, for about eight Days together; I kept in the lower Part of the Wound a ſmall Tent, which diſcharged ſome Seroſities at every Dreſſing for 4 or 5 Days. But Buſineſs calling me elſewhere, I left her, having firſt inſtructed her two Daughters (both Women, who carefully attended her) how to dreſs her Wound, and told 'em what Diet I thought moſt proper, enjoining 'em ſtrictly to obſerve what I order'd.

Her chief Food was ſtrong Broth made of an old Cock, in each Porringer of which was one Spoonful of the Lady's Cinnamon-Water; this was repeated 4 times a day, and gave her new Life and Spirits.

After three Weeks Abſence, I called at her Houſe, and finding it ſhut up, was a little ſurpriz'd, but had not gone far before I was much more ſurprized, when I found her ſitting wrapt up in Blankets, giving Directions to ſome Labourers who were cutting down her Corn.

She mended apace to the Admiration of every body thereabouts, recovered ſurprizingly, and lived in perfect Health from that time, which was in *Auguſt* 1701, till *October* 1714. when ſhe died in ten Days Sickneſs.

That this Tumour, or rather Dropſy of the *Ovarium*, proceeded from the Midwife's Raſhneſs in pulling away the *Placenta*, not knowing how to ſeparate it from the *Uterus* ſkilfully, ſeems to me plain from what the Woman herſelf told me, and what fell out afterwards.

The *Placenta* adhering faſt to the *Uterus*, required more Art to bring it away than ſhe was Miſtreſs of, which probably induc'd her to uſe Violence; by which ſhe forc'd down the *Fundus Uteri*; ſo overſtrain'd the Ligaments, and all that's appended to 'em; eſpecially the *Ligamentum latum* of the left Side and its *Ovarium*, which may be reaſonably allow'd to have been hurt in the Relaxation with the reſt. Hence the Elaſticity of theſe læſed Parts was not only impair'd, but the ſmall Lymphaticks ruptur'd, ſo that the extravaſated *Lympha* ruſhing out, thicken'd, and not being able to recirculate, dilated the injur'd *Ovarium*, and thus increas'd the Tumour, and the Parts being already exceſſively diſtended, and being no longer able to reſiſt the new Influx of freſh Secretions, ruptur'd alſo, and by Degrees augmented to that huge and enormous Bulk.

Cyprianus in his Letter to Sir *Thomas Millington*, gives ſeveral Inſtances of the Miſchiefs committed by Midwives, and other ignorant Perſons. When a *Placenta* adheres, then (ſays he) they tear all before 'em, by pulling rudely, they force down the *Fundus Uteri*, conſequently do Violence to the *Ovaria* and other Parts, whence follow Inflammations, *&c.*

Foreſtus, *l.* 28. *Obſ.* 80. ſays, that an over-bold Midwife pulled out the *Placenta* too haſtily, and that the

the Woman preſently fell into a Swoon, and died immediately.

Frederick Ruyſch attributes the Cauſe of a *Placenta*'s adhering cloſe, to a central Inſertion of the Navel-String into the *Placenta*, in which Caſe it is hard to ſeparate; a Train of diſmal Accidents attend thoſe who, not knowing how to do it, venture to pull it away by Force. *Vide Obſ. Anat.* 97.

Dionis and *la Motte* have made the ſame Remark, by the latter of which we are told of innumerable Accidents, which he has known happen to Women in hard Labour, by the Raſhneſs and Ignorance of bold Pretenders, who, without Rule, Precepts, Practice, or any ſuitable Inſtructions, venture to practiſe Deliveries.

The aforeſaid *Ruyſch* has a remarkable Inſtance of the Effects of Violence in hard Labour: The Caſe is curious. *Vide Obſ. Anat.* 63.

Manget, in his *Theatrum Anat.* tells us that in all hard Labours, where the *Placenta* ſticks, the Ligaments ſuffer more or leſs by a raſh and ignorant Way of Pulling; Examples of which ſee in *Platerus*'s *Obſ. lib.* 3. *Bartholin. Cent.* 2. *Hiſt.* 91. *Cent.* 5. *Hiſt.* 19. *Marchett. Anat. cap.* 7. and others, of which *Blaſius* has given us an ample Liſt in his Commentaries on *Veſlingius*.

He likewiſe tells us, that the *Ovaria* grow to a wonderful Bulk, and contain ſuch a huge Quantity of Liquor, that they become dropſical, whereof *Skenckius* in his *Obſ.* has recorded many Examples, as hath *Riolan*, and many others.

Munnicks in his *Bibliothec. Anat.* gives us the Hiſtory of a large Dropſy of the right *Ovarium*.

Mortgagni has told us, that he has often met with large Veſicles in the *Ovaria*, and, in morbid Bodies, ſometimes full of purulent Matter.

Sylvius

Sylvius. Ex lymphaticis læſis tam Virilium, quam Muliebrium Teſticulorum, &c. Hydrops particularis excitari poteſt.

Veſlingius cap. 7. has often met with large Tumours, from Obſtructions in the *Ovaria* of Women.

Veſalius found in the right *Ovarium*, 9 or 10 *Glandules*, like Gooſe Eggs, with Matter not unlike the Whites of Eggs, or rather thicker.

Gul. Ballon, paradig. vi. found an Impoſthume of the Nature of a *Steatoma*, near the *Collum Uteri*; The Woman had a large Tumour on her Side 16 Years, and had only one *Ovarium*, which was ſhown as a wonderful thing.

At *Weſtminſter*, about two Years ago, I opened the Body of a Gentlewoman, about 60, whoſe left *Ovarium*, of a great Bulk, weigh'd vi. ℔. to which adher'd ſeveral *Hydatides* like Pullets Eggs.

Hildan mentions an *Hydropick* Tumour of the right *Ovarium*, of a prodigious bulk, ſtuff'd with Hair, *vide Gul. Fab. Hild. Cent.* 5 *Obſ.* 48. *Greg. Horſt. Tom.* 2. *l.* 4. *Ob.* 53.

Ruyſch Obſ. Anat. 17. A Dropſie (ſays he) of the *Ovarium*, or (if you pleaſe) of the Eggs, is an Affection, or Diſeaſe, well enough known to others, but I am afraid not ſo well conſider'd; Authors have agreed to call it *Hydatis*, with which name I ſhall reſt ſatisfied, provided we agree about the ſubject of the Diſtemper. I obſerve this, moſt frequently, if not always, to be the Eggs, but ſo chang'd, and ſometimes ſwell'd to ſuch a Bulk, that I have often ſeen them larger than a Child's Head.

Drelincourt has given us a very full and exact Account of a Dropſie of the left *Ovarium*, in a Lady of 35 Years. The Tumour, of an enormous Bulk, continu'd three Years. The Body of the *Ovarium*, with all contain'd in it, weigh'd, 60 ℔. It was nothing but

but a number of little Globules, cluſter'd together, that differ'd in their Roundneſs, Form, Colour, and Conſiſtence, proceeding from little ſeminary Veſicles in a Cluſter. Some had Water extremely clear and liquid, others a yellowiſh *Serum* thin, others a glutinous Matter; ſome were as big as Pullets Eggs, others bigger than one's Fiſt.

Let theſe few, out of the many Inſtances which I could produce from Authors of undoubted Reputation, ſuffice to prove, that the *Ovaria*, as well as the *Tubæ Falloppianæ*, Ligaments, and *Uterus* itſelf, are not free from Dropſies, *&c.* and that they proceed from Obſtructions, often occaſioned by rude and violent dealing with Women in difficult Labours, which generally bring on a train of diſmal Symptoms, that ſooner or later, according to the Strength of the Sufferer, after a miſerable, painful, languiſhing Life, end in Death.

The manifeſt Succeſs in this uncommon Caſe may be of uſe, and may ſhew, that we ought not to diſpair too ſoon, in Diſtempers that are ſeemingly moſt dangerous.

IV. *Præparatio Cærulei Pruſſiaci ex Germaniâ miſſa ad* Johannem Woodward, *M. D. Prof. Med. Greſh. R. S. S.*

℞ TArtari crudi & Nitri crudi Siccati ad ℥iiii. Pulveriſentur minutiſſime, & commiſceantur, deinde admoto igneo carbone detonentur, & habebis Salis Tartari extemporanei ℥iiii. Dum adhuc calidum eſt hoc Sal, pulveriſetur ſubtiliſſime, & addantur ſanguinis Bovini probe exſiccati & ſubtiliſſ. pulv. ℥iiii. Hæc, bene